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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

A SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS

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Plans and prospects for the farm labor program; dairy, poultry, and vegetable production; household conservation; and 4-H Club work are features of this week's summary.

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MICHIGAN
April 8, 1944

Farm labor.- Sugar beets and canning crops, State's huge fruit industry, and general farming are three phases of 1944 emergency farm labor problem in Michigan, according to preliminary survey made by State emergency farm labor supervisor. As in 1943, members of staff at Michigan State College will conduct farm labor program assigned to Extension Service. Last year organization handling program made 142,000 placements of 85,000 persons on 27,000 farms by registering requests for emergency help and helping to train, transport, and house many of volunteers. Agencies cooperating included U. S. Employment Service, Office of Civilian Defense, Office of Defense Transportation, radio stations, newspapers, public school systems, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and civic organizations.

If Michigan farmers plant 130,000 acres of sugar beets requested for 1944, estimated 15,000 workers will be needed for this production. Between sugar-beet work periods, same workers would be needed to help with usual acreages of carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers for pickles, and green bean and other canning crops.

Demands indicate peak period of June and September require 80,000 extra persons. Normally 50,000 of these come from outside State--problem in wartime because of gasoline and tire restrictions. Favorable weather would intensify labor problem in 1944. Wet weather in 1943 reduced crop acreages. Fruit harvests were not so large as usual. This year, increased competition with industry, even in small cities and towns, may make recruiting of emergency help more difficult. One favorable factor is last year's experience in matching needs with volunteers. Thousands of boys and girls who enjoyed experiences of 1943 are willing to help again this year.

MISSOURI
March 31, 1944

Family food supply.- Food leaders in 27 counties have been trained in preparation of "meals that can wait" and other short cuts to help large number of homemakers who will carry double load of working in fields and keeping up household duties.

Many farm families are asking for recommendations on fruit and vegetable varieties. Counties and communities are planning exchanges of farm produce to make communities more self-sufficient and to relieve transportation load. Cooperative gardening between town and country families, curb markets, and early orders for produce are some steps in plan. Planned food supply as feature of balanced farming program is emphasized in five counties. In other counties, rural communities sponsor nutrition classes, exhibits, demonstrations, food games, and similar measures to popularize production of essential foods in basic seven groups. Nearly all counties have set up preseason programs for checking and repairing pressure cookers.

Better utilization of milk supply has been taught successfully in Madison County, where home-economics extension clubs learned to make Cheddar cheese, and 4-H Clubs learned to make variety of refreshing drinks with milk as main ingredient. Many women, besides storing surplus milk in form of cheese, also gave cakes of cheese as Christmas gifts. Cheese has also been widely used to improve school lunches.

Dairy production.- Better methods of breeding, feeding, and care of their 8,700 cows brought members of Missouri dairy-herd improvement associations \$94 more annually per cow above production costs than earnings from average Missouri cow--or total of \$820,000. State's dairymen generally were able to offset shortages of labor, grain, and protein feeds by increased use of supplementary pastures. In this way they produced more than \$6,000,000 worth of additional highly nutritious feed, saving also labor of harvesting and handling and needless strain on transportation facilities.

For consistent and outstanding improvement of his dairy herd over period of years, Louis Hearne of McDonald County was honored by National Dairy Association. By use of good sires, careful selection, good care and feeding, but without large expenditures of money, Hearne has brought average production of butterfat by 13-cow herd of Jerseys up to 411 pounds a year.

Sheep.- Linn County sheep and wool growers' association, oldest pool of kind in Missouri, has added \$75,000 to members' income through marketing 1,500,000 pounds of wool in 24 years of existence. Pool has obtained estimated 5 cents a pound premium for members. It handled 80,774 pounds of wool for 240 farmers last year. Pool's portable dipping tank was used for 6,214 sheep in 1943.

Poultry production.- Full effect of poultry campaigns is revealed by Federal statistics for 1943. Missouri's egg quota was exceeded, with total production of 241,250,000 dozen eggs--increase of 1/8 over 1942, and 1/4 over 1941. At beginning of 1944, Missouri has 24,120,000 hens--increase of 1,026,000 over last year--and now ranks fourth among States in number of hens on farms. Missouri poultry raisers in 1943 invested \$2,639,780 in better housing and feeding equipment.

Feed supply.- Campaign for increased seeding of oats in lespedeza stubble as means of adding to feed supplies, reached peak with distribution of 120,000 folders and widespread cooperation by newspapers. In preparation for campaign, survey of seed situation in December revealed demand for 240,000 bushels of seed oats but only 40,000 bushels apparently available. Seedsmen were informed of deficit and

farmers feeding oats were shown it could be used or sold more profitably for seed. Now needs have been met fairly well.

Soils and crops.- Important new feature of 114 soils and crops conferences just completed was series of supplementary meetings of seed and fertilizer dealers in 46 counties. Meeting at night before regular conferences, total of 240 dealers discussed best means of contributing to food expansion program. Accepting responsibility in effort to increase production without undue loss of soil resources, groups then reported to main conferences specific help they could give. Regular conferences emphasized increased food production in 1944. Total attendance of 16,536 was considered satisfactory in view of travel difficulties and reduction in numbers of young farmers.

Household conservation.- To learn how to make home furnishings last through war period without unnecessary sacrifice of family comfort and health, homemakers have been coming in large numbers to county meetings on care of household equipment and furnishings and making of small repairs around home. At such meetings, 27 Nodaway County communities were represented by 66 women, and 22 communities in Cass County by 42--all preparing to carry back to neighbors skill and knowledge acquired. Keen interest was shown in lessons on safety at work and conservation of time and energy as aids to war effort.

In clothing conservation 141 communities were reached during month and 276 leaders trained in home sewing. These women reported great numbers of homemakers asking for help in mending, remodeling, and conservation of old clothing, as well as in construction of new garments. Interest in sewing for children is especially apparent.

4-H Club work.- Booklet of 12 pages featuring 4-H Club work in Henry County was issued by County Agent Robert Hall and Home Demonstration Agent Audra Robertson in recognition of good work already done and larger opportunities in 1944. In its 9- by 12-inch pages of local stories and photographs, booklet shows 4-H in action. It contains 37 pictures of 4-H members, leaders, and cooperators, together with stories of achievement, record of county 4-H events, and paragraphs from record books of many club members. Booklets were sent to 3,000 families in county.

Farm machinery.- Winter series of county meetings on machinery repair was completed by agricultural engineering specialists with attendance ranging up to 240 at one meeting. Follow-up in most counties took form of community meetings held by county agents, implement dealers, and local leaders.

WYOMING
April 1, 1944

Labor.- Extension supervisors, labor division, and county agents are giving much time to improving labor set-up. In all counties labor committee has incorporated, so there will be official body to contract for use of groups of Mexican nationals, war prisoners, or other available workers. Surveys have been made particularly to find out need for lambers and herders. Agents have already placed many herders from among transient sheep hands. Every effort is being made to explain to employers necessity for large use of local labor.

Heel-fly control.- In range cattle counties, spraying cattle against heel fly is principal work at present. Control is important to food production because cattle grubs seriously interfere with maximum beef development in individual animal. Power sprayers are purchased by county or by groups of stockmen in communities. In one county five sprayers thus purchased have been almost in constant use. County agents start work by giving demonstrations in mixing spray material, handling machines, and application of spray, and then groups go ahead with treatment.

4-H Club work.- In all but one county, agents observed 4-H Mobilization Week with program of activities emphasizing food-production clubs, and designed to interest parents, boys, and girls in club work. In some counties, attempts were made to reach all communities with special educational meetings. Agents used week to enroll members, enlist leaders, and get club started. Members of State club staff met with county club councils in four counties to help them draw up plan of activities for season's work.

In counties where feeding of beef calves is practical, calves are now getting well started. In one county alone, more than 75 calves have been selected and purchased for club members, and most of calves are on feed and in excellent condition.

Victory Gardens.- Specialist in horticulture is giving most of his time to promoting interest in gardens. Literature on various phases of gardening, such as planning garden, preparation of seedbed, hotbeds, varieties, irrigation, has been prepared and distributed. Meetings with leaders have been held in five counties to present garden needs and plans for increased production. This work will continue through April.